

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

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SUBJ: IRAN/TURKEY RELATIONS

REF: ANKARA 3915

1. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, JUNE 2-7 VISIT OF TURKISH PRESIDENT KORUTURK TO IRAN RESULTED IN NO ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SPECIFIC DEALS. AN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY GOI FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATABRY AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL. WHILE NO COPY OF THE AGREEMENT HAS BECOME AVAILABLE, PORTIONS CONTAINED IN OFFICIAL GOI PRESS RELEASE DESCRIBE IN GENERAL TERMS: (1) TRANSPORT - TURKS WILL MAINTAIN ROADS, RAILWAYS, FERRY SERVICES, AND STORAGE INSTALLATIONS FROM WHICH IRAN BENEFITS, AND IRAN WILL SUPPLY "APPROPRIATE CREDITS" FOR TRANSPORT FACILITIES; (2) TOURISM - THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD COOPERATE IN THE "WIDE AND RICH POSSIBILITIES" IN THIS FIELD; (3) JOINT COOPERATION COMMISSION WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ESTABLISHED WHICH WILL CONSIDER "CONTINUED AND REGULAR SUPPLY OF CRUDE OIL TO TURKEY," THE POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGING ELECTRICITY IN BORDER AREAS, AND THE LONG AGO PROPOSED IRANIAN GAS PIPELINE ACROSS TURKEY. (4) JOINT VENTURES - COOPERATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN

IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO MEET THE TWO COUNTRIES' RISING DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, ENCOURAGEMENT BY THE TWO SIDES OF ENGINEERING/CONSULTING/CONTRACTING SERVICES IN ONE ANOTHER'S PROJECTS, AND AGREEMENT TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT DEFENSE INDUSTRY. THE TURKS PRESENTED TO THE IRANIANS A LIST OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON WHICH FOREIGN FINANCING IS DESIRED.

2. TURKISH EMBASSY COMMERCIAL ATTACHE ATIL OYAL TOLD EMBOFF HE COULD ADD NOTHING TO PUBLISHED REPORTS OF THE ECONOMIC TALKS. HE SAID ANY IRANIAN CREDIT FOR IMPROVING THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ACROSS TURKEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT COMPLETION OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR CONSTRUCTING A RAIL LINK CIRCUMVENTING LAKE VAN. HE THOUGHT AGRO-INDUSTRY IS A LIKELY AREA FOR FUTURE COOPERATION, BUT STATED THAT NO SPECIFIC AMOUNTS OF POSSIBLE IRANIAN CREDITS FOR THIS OR ANY OTHER FIELD WERE AGREED UPON.

3. JAMSHID TAVALLALI, CHIEF OF MFA'S FIFTH DIVISION, WHICH HANDLES TURKISH AFFAIRS, SAID THERE WAS NOTHING MORE TO THE VISIT THAN HAD BEEN IN THE PRESS. HE SAID IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE JOINT COMMISSION WOULD MEET WITHIN THREE MONTHS TO CONSIDER SPECIFICS. ASKED ABOUT PRESS COMMENTS THAT THE VISIT WAS NECESSARY TO PUT MORE LIFE IN IRAN-TURKEY TIES AND ABOUT THE SHAH'S REJOINDER TO A TURKISH NEWSMAN'S QUESTION ON THAT LINE THAT "COOPERATION IS A TWO WAY STREET", TAVALLALI MADE LIGHT OF THEM AS SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM. HE NOTED THAT THE GOI HAD COMMITTED ITSELF TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO JOINTLY-AGREED PROJECTS AND HAD THEREFORE GONE MORE THAN HALFWAY TO COOPERATE WITH TURKEY. MIKLOS

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